THE BARONY OF DRAGONSSPINE

Meiassis Dragon

June

A.S XLIX

Inside...

- Events! Events! Events!
- Need a job? We have a few!
- Riddles, Sagas, and Sonnets—oh my!

Seneschal's Missive

seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Greetings unto the populace of Dragonsspine!

We have received 2 letters at this point for Baron and Baroness the deadline is fast approaching so please get your letters into the below listed gentles. Anyone interested in placing their names in contention for the position of Baron and Baroness please send letters of intent by June 3rd, 2014 to the following:

Their Majesties's at
crown@outlands.org

Sir Lavan at
seneschal@outlands.org

TE's Herbert & Keterlyn at
baron@dragonsspine.org
baroness@dragonsspine.org

Master Duncan at
seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Polling will be held July 6th at Woodstone park from 9 AM until 1 PM Their Majesties will be in attendance so please come out and let your voice be heard as to your preference for our Next B&B. After all the letters are in we will announce those who have asked to be included in the polling and the times and places for Q&A's.

Investiture will be at our Champions event on Aug. 2nd, this year being held at the Homestead Ranch Regional park in Peyton.

We still need letters of interest for the Archery Captain please forward you letters to the below listed gentles. If you are interested in this position please send letters to:

TE's Herbert & Keterlyn at
baron@dragonsspine.org
baroness@dragonsspine.org

Master Duncan at
seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Countess Eorann at
archery@dragonsspine.org

We still need letters of interest for Knight Marshal. If you are interested in helping to train the fighters of Dragonsspine please send letters to:

TE's Herbert & Keterlyn at
baron@dragonsspine.org
baroness@dragonsspine.org

Master Duncan at
seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Herr Sixtus at marshal@dragonsspine.org

We still need letters of interest for Seneschal. If you are interested in this position please send letters to:

TE's Herbert & Keterlyn at
baron@dragonsspine.org
baroness@dragonsspine.org

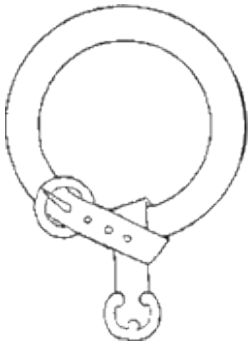
Master Duncan at
seneschal@dragonsspine.org

Due to me having back surgery on June 11th. Please get letters in as soon as possible for all openings. Between June 11th and polling on July 6th please send all items for the Seneschal's office to Lord Gianni.

These offices need to have letters in so please use the same deadline of June 3rd for letters of interest for all the officer positions.

In Service

Duncan



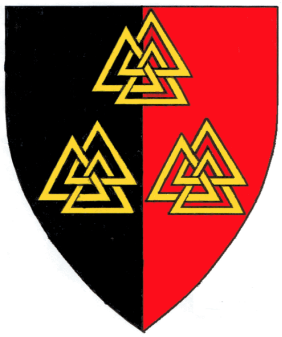
Kolgrim will be giving his answer for his offer of elevation to the order of Chivalry at Battlemoor. There will be a vigil at Battlemoor as well. More information will be posted as we get closer to the event.

For those folks who can't make it to Battlemoor in order to give Kolgrim their counsel, there will be a vigil held at TASC in Denver on July 12th starting at 6:00pm. Garb is greatly appreciated.

Any questions can be directed to Kolgrim, myself, Mistress Thorhalla, or Baroness Meadhbh.

Thank you!

Lady Danielle



Plague Picnic Report

Plague Picnic May 17, 2014

YE GHODS DID WE HAVE FUN!!!

Cadlae (Key) and Laurentz held a great event which was local and unofficial and free. I volunteered to write this report, so all omissions or blame goes to me (Selene).

The event was held at Dirty Woman Creek. It started small and we took our time setting up. People arrived over the next couple hours until there was a wonderful number of us. Lovely, live medieval music on recorders was provided by Excellency Timothy Kirkwood and Seamus O Mourane.

The 50 Years War, no wait – aha - Half-a-Hundred Years War, no wait – ahhh finally, – The "L" Games (think Roman Numerals) was expected to be a bit one sided with youngsters vastly out numbering oldsters. Duke Albert even had a dream/nightmare of having to stand alone against all comers, HOWEVER, this was actually reversed to a 2 vs 5 battle. Key and Laurentz held out very courageously against the oldsters, but fell at the end. The other combats were one-on-one or small team vs small team, followed by individual training sessions between all fighters. It was fun to watch.

There WAS an armor inspection – thank you Key and others.

The food was all very tasty. Every dish was tested and tasted – some in spite of their names.

Many of us walked the site, noting the facilities. These included a huge covered pavilion, 10 large expanded steel picnic tables, areas of greensward (good for a war skermishes – with hummocks and trees), a small creek (which the supervised children found fascinating and muddy), a smallish (8 - 10 car) parking lot (with a larger one at a connecting park, and an actual functioning (and open) flushing facility. There was an occasional train that was required to blow its horn at a nearby crossing, but not too obnoxious, unless you were Thegn Teigr, who "attacked" it in true Viking style. (No train nor Viking was harmed in the process.)

Note 3: Some of the FOOD (pictures of several items will be at the end of this report)

Event Rules: The dish had to have a clever name, but be edible and usually tasty.

1. Vanquished Delight – wonderfully carved head of watermelon
2. Crunchy Dragon – fried chicken
3. Gentleman Fingers –wheat bread wrapped a core of crème cheese with almond fingernails
4. Dragon Droppings – piles of marshmallow rice crispies – peppermint and peanut butter flavors
5. Effluvium Stew – pumpernickel/rye bread in beer stew/soup (Danish = Øllebrod)
6. Two Many Mistakes – rice, chicken, multi-bean dish
7. Grave Cakes – mini-cupcakes with bugs, skeletons, etc. on top
8. Bones – bread sticks with a knot on the end (as a joint)
9. Kidney Scones – small scones with purple icing
10. Bug Infested Meat – a cold cut tray with gummy worms
11. Greasy Grimey Gopher Guts – baked, buttered spaghetti squash
12. Cursed Gold – chocolate covered in gold foil coins

Pictures – provided by Cadlae Horsey

Sonnet #2—by William Shakespeare

When forty winters shall besiege thy brow,
And dig deep trenches in thy beauty's field,
Thy youth's proud livery so gazed on now,
Will be a totter'd weed of small worth held:
Then being asked, where all thy beauty lies,
Where all the treasure of thy lusty days;
To say, within thine own deep sunken eyes,
Were an all-eating shame, and thriftless praise.
How much more praise deserv'd thy beauty's use,
If thou couldst answer 'This fair child of mine
Shall sum my count, and make my old excuse,'
Proving his beauty by succession thine!
This were to be new made when thou art old,
And see thy blood warm when thou feel'st it cold.

The poet looks ahead to the time when the youth will have aged, and uses this as an argument to urge him to waste no time, and to have a child who will replicate his father and preserve his beauty. The imagery of ageing used is that of siege warfare, forty winters being the besieging army, which digs trenches in the fields before the threatened city. The trenches correspond to the furrows and lines which will mark the young man's forehead as he ages. He is urged not to throw away all his beauty by devoting himself to self-pleasure, but to have children, thus satisfying the world, and Nature, which will keep an account of what he does with his life.

Upcoming Events

6-8 June Enduro—Caer Galen

13-14 June KW Heralds and Scribes—Caid

13-22 June Lillies War—Calontir

21 June Nock on Wood—al-Barran

21 June Brewer's Feast—Bofharrach

22 June Caerthe Champions Challenge—Caerthe

27-29 June Aarquelle Highlands Fencing Camp—Aarquelle Highlands (Salida)

27-29 June Gladiator—Windkeep

3-6 July Warders of the Western Gate—Fontaine

3-6 July Caer Galen Defender

6 July Baronial Polling—Dragonsspine

12 July Citadel Hastilude—Southern Pass

17-21 July Keepers of Dry Stone—Drygestan

18-20 July Fighters Folly—Cearthe

25-27 July Here there will be Dragons—Plattefordham

27 July Ranger Tournament—Dragonsspine

26 Jul-10 Aug Pennisc War—Aethelmarc

2 Aug Champions and Investiture—Dragonsspine

9 Aug Southern A&S Collegium—al-Barran

9 Aug St. Sebastians—Hawk's Hollow

15-18 Aug Crown—Dragonsspine

27 Aug—1 Sept Battlemoor—Northern Outlands

Around the Outlands

On August 2, A.S. 40 (2014) the Barony of Dragonsspine will wish Baron Herbert and Baroness Keterlyn a fond fair well as they move on to new adventures and welcome the next Baron and Baroness of Dragonsspine. The new Baron and Baroness will have the pleasure of watching their fighters vie for the honor of Baronial Warlord (heavy weapons), Baronial Defender (rapier), and the Shield of Honor (most chivalry and honor on the field). Bring your sunscreen, water and a picnic lunch for a fun filled and exciting day in the park.

Please be aware that the closet food is 10 miles away!

No Glass!!! No Fires!!!
Site is DRY!!

August 2, 2014

Homestead Ranch Park

16444 Gollihar Road

Peyton, CO 80831

Event steward: Kiara Loftus (Therese Hofheins) kiara.loftus@yahoo.com and Gianni Sangermano (Jason Sangermano) giannisangermano@yahoo.com

Site fee: $5 adult (16 and older); $0 child (15 and younger); $5 non-member adult surcharge

Please make checks payable to "SCA- Dragonsspine"

Directions:

Take best route to I-25 toward Colorado Springs, CO. Take the Woodmen Road exit 149, turn East on Woodmen Road. Follow Woodman for about 13 miles to Highway 24. Turn North (left) on Highway 24. Follow Highway 24 for 5 miles to Elbert Road. Turn left onto Elbert Road. Follow Elbert Road for 5 miles, make a sharp right onto Sweet Road. Stay on Sweet Road for about 2 miles. Turn left onto Gollihar Road. The park will be at the end of Gollihar Road.

On June 21st, in the Canton of Bofharrach, there is to be an event! Brewers' Feast will be from noon to 9pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Greeley, CO.

An assortment of brewing classes leads into a Magnificent brewing inspired feast by Lady Gabrielle Rizzo.

Bring your brew for the social affair to share and bring you appetite for food and knowledge.

There are only 30 spots left so don't get left out. Email heleneboudain@yahoo.com to reserve today.

If you have reserved via Facebook but not email, then you aren't reserved yet!

If you have questions be sure to contact me.

Thank you. Yours in Service,
Ruadrí MacBatín

To our glorious marshals:

Lord Radu and I have a dream to include archery and fencing at Gladiators! Sadly, we have focused much of our time on being hit with sticks and while we know the basics for each we don't know enough to host it as part of Gladiator's.

That's where you come in.

Lord Radu and I are looking for individuals who would like to run Archery or Fencing at Gladiators! We have the facilities! We have the willingness! We lack the know how.

If you are at all interested please contact me off list.

YIS

-Nicolae

Around the Outlands

Fall Crown Tournament 2014

As War approaches it is time to choose a new prince, Who, with our King will lead us into battle.

Join the Crown of the Outlands in Tournament to choose the heir to the Stag Throne!

Hosted by the Barony of Dragonsspine

Located at:

El Paso County Fairgrounds

366 10th Street

Calhan, CO 80808

Site Opens: Aug 15, 2014 5 pm

Closes: August 17, 2014 at 7pm

Feast the evening of Aug 16th

Feast-o-crat THL Bronwen of Hindscroft

Full Weekend $20.00 Adult
$15.00 Child (6-12)

Single Day $15.00 Adult
$10.00 Child (6-12)

Children under 5 Free

Feast $10.00 per Person

Autocrats:

Sir Alaric Razvedchikov
alaric_ksca@yahoo.com

Ceara MacElea
cmdcatlady@yahoo.com

Camping Pre-Registration Ends: August 1, 2014

Feast Pre-Registration Ends: July 25, 2014

Please mail pre-registration to:

Barony of Dragonsspine

P.O. Box 374

Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Please see our website at:
http://tinyurl.com/pe6ozyq

or find us on Facebook for more information.

Dragonsspine Ranger Tournament

July 27, 2014

Site is FREE and opens at 1

Join the current Dragonsspine Ranger for an afternoon of fun and excitement to decide the next Ranger. We are sure that Lord Brutus will have a challenging competition planned. Bring your bow, your skill, your sunscreen and water for an afternoon of challenge and fun.

Directions:
Take you best route to the intersection of Woodmen Road and Powers Blvd. Travel east on Woodmen to the next intersection/stop light which is Black Forest Road. Travel North on Black Forest Road until you see McFerren Road on your right. Travel east on McFerran until you reach the stop sign at the corner of Hungate Road. The open field on your left is where the tournament will be held.

Exeter Riddle #4

Ring me, they ring me. I work long hours and must readily obey my master, break my rest, and loudly proclaim that my guardian gave me a halter.

A man or a woman, weary and bleary, has often called on me; winter-cold I answer them, surely as they are. Sometimes a warm limb looses the bound ring.

But it delights my master, a dull sort of man, and satisfies me into the bargain, if anyone can fathom and solve my riddle.

Exeter Riddle #5

I'm by nature solitary, scarred by iron and wounded by sword, weary of battle.

I often see the face of war, and fight hateful enemies; yet I hold no hope of help being brought to me in battle before I'm cut to pieces and perish.

At the city wall sharp-edged sword, skillfully forged in the flames by smiths, bite deeply into me. I must await a more fearsome encounter; it is not for me to find a physician on the battlefield, one of those men who heals wounds with herbs.

My sword wounds gape wide and wider; death blows are dealt me by day and by night.

Exeter Riddle #6

Christ, the true giver of victories, created me for combat. When my lord urges me to fight, I often scorch mortals; I approach the earth and, without a touch, afflict a huge host of people.

At times I gladden the minds of men, keeping my distance I console those whom I fought before; they feel my kindness as they once felt my fire when, after such suffering, I soothe their lives.

Dirty Dozen at Dragonsspine Investiture...

Greetings!

I am pleased to sponsor a Dirty Dozen Donation Derby (aka 4D) at Dragonsspine Champions and Investiture in three months time, August 2, 2014. The 4D was created in the Principality of Tir Righ, Kingdom of An Tir, as a way to encourage the creation of largess through friendly competition. As a way to celebrate and welcome our next Coronet and fill their largess needs in advance of Battlemoor, I thought our people might be inspired as well.

Basic Rules

All entrants must create 12 items that are suitable for largesse and based on a theme chosen by the entrant. Here are some suggestions to get you started but don't feel limited. Your chosen theme should inspire you to create as your artistic whim directs.

12 needle books

12 hats from the same or different periods

12 items from a specific time period or country

12 children's toys

12 pair of socks (note: 12 socks would be 6 pair)

Entry is open to everyone. Participants from other groups are encouraged and welcome. Entrants may be individuals who provide 12 items or several people may form a team to make 12 items.

Requirements

All entries must be tagged and ready to be gifted the day of the competition. Tags should include your name, your group, what the item is, and the materials (wool, cotton, etc).

Items that can cause concern due to allergies or travel safety (food, scented items, liquids, etc) are not allowed.

Items do not need to be documentable and no documentation is required. This isn't an Arts and Sciences competition. It's a way to share our skills and talents to encourage and inspire others while supporting our nobles.

Items should not have specific heraldry on them though use of heraldic elements and colors is not restricted.

Please consider the needs of small items and package so they may be transported and presented safely.

Judging and Prizes

Items will be judged by populace choice. Each entrant's display will have a cup placed next to it and anyone may put a provided token into the accompanying cup to denote their choice.

The entrant with the most tokens in their cup at the end of the day chooses one item from any one of the other entries as a prize. Each entrant then chooses from the remaining entries according to how many tokens they received (largest to smallest number). Each entry may only be chosen once as a prize. If several people form a team, one representative of the team will choose one item as a prize for their entire team.

The remaining 11 items from each entry will be split between Their Excellencies Dragonsspine and Their Majesties.

Feeling ambitious? Over the Top prizes will be available for any individual creating 6 dozens or more. Team entrants are not eligible. Individuals only. If you're trying for OTT, please let me know so we can be prepared.

Registration is not required but if you are planning to participate drop me a note so I can be sure we have sufficient space for display. The display will be manned during the day but there won't be space available to sit with your entry. Please contact me with questions. More information on 4D and inspiration from other derbies may be found in the 4D group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/520009888022124/. Additional inspiration is available on Pinterest: http://www.pinterest.com/leofsige/dirty-dozen-donation-derby-ideas/. Please share this with other groups/lists as appropriate.

In Service,
THL Lêofsige Õ Caoimh known as Lyssa
Barony of Dragonsspine

Introduction to Blackwork

By Lady Lêofsige Ó Caoimh (Lyssa)

History

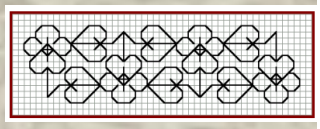
The appearance of blackwork in England is often attributed to Catherine of Aragon. Catherine was the daughter of Ferdinand II and Isabella of Spain and was sent to England in 1501 to wed Prince Arthur. After the prince's untimely death, she was betrothed to his younger brother, Prince Henry, and later wed him on the date of his coronation as Henry VIII. When she arrived in England, Catherine had numerous pieces in her trousseau which were embroidered in the Spanish style, white or black silk and gold "lace stitches" on fine linen. Catherine was accomplished in this art having learned the craft from her mother and grandmother. It is commonly believed that she was responsible for the elaborate embroidery on Henry VIII's garments, but it is more likely that the majority of the stitching was executed by professional embroiders. While this might seem a plausible explanation for the sudden appearance of this style, it is more likely a catalyst for its renewed popularity as "cole-blak silk" embroidery was known in England and Western Europe from at least the 14th century. Chaucer's Canterbury Tales include reference to this style of embroidery in "The Mylleres Tale". Earlier forms of this embroidery may be found among the 8th century Moors of Spain who were renowned for their exactly proportioned floral fluting and interlacing embroidery. This earlier form was known as "moresque" or "arabesque". Whatever its origins, blackwork creates distinctive motifs which have been portrayed by many artists throughout the reigns of the Tudors of England.

Historically, many stitches have been used in blackwork designs. The most common are the back stitch, the double running stitch often called Holbein, the braid stitch, the button hole or blanket stitch, the chain stitch, the coral stitch, the herringbone stitch, the speckling stitch, and the Pekinese stitch. Blackwork designs often combine many of these stitches to accomplish the final design. Small designs are often worked with the back stitch or Holbein stitch and form patterns without additional stitching. Larger designs are worked with an outline stitch such as back, buttonhole, chain or coral. Once the outline is worked, the design is filled with additional stitches. Large open areas are often filled with speckling stitches or repeated small designs. The amount of stitching in an area, the density of those stitches, and the stitch chosen affect the shading of a pattern. By varying the shading, texture can be added to the motifs.

The ground fabric chosen affects the scale of a pattern. A fabric with thick or widely spaced threads will produce a larger pattern than one with thin or tightly grouped threads. It is also necessary to pay attention to the number of warp and weft threads in a fabric to achieve the correct proportions. If the warp and weft contain differing thread counts, spacing or thread thickness, the final design will be skewed. Originally blackwork was created on very fine linen.

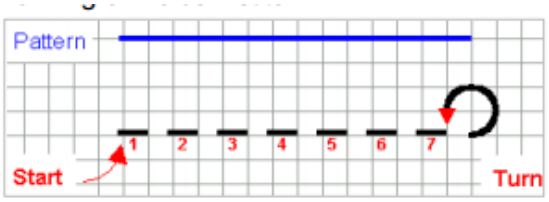
The nearest approximation to that fabric produced today is fine handkerchief linen. If fine handkerchief linen is unavailable, there are many substitutes available in a slightly heavier texture from even weave linen canvas available in needlework stores to even weave linen fabric available in many fabric stores. Whatever fabric you choose, pay attention to the warp and weft thread count to be certain your final design meets your expectations.

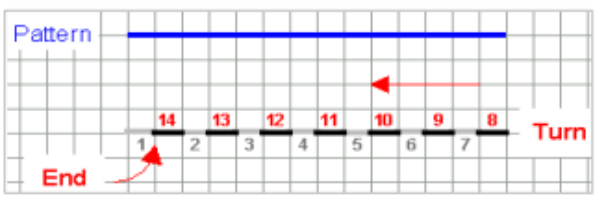
Patterns



This pattern is from The Blackwork Embroidery Archives and works well as a border of small motifs or can be used as a filling motif. To change the look of the pattern, filling stitches can be used to increase the density of stitching within the pattern and add shading. It is also a counted motif that works well with the Holbein stitch.

These diagrams from The Blackwork Embroidery Archives show the working of the double running or Holbein stitch.





Egil's Saga—Part Two

Egil's Saga is an Icelandic saga. The oldest transcript (a fragment) dates back to 1240 AD. The saga is centered on the life of Egill Skallagrímsson, also known as Egil Skallagrimsson, an Icelandic farmer, viking and skald. It is generally referred to as Egla by Icelandic scholars. The saga is the only source of information on the exploits of Egill whose life is not historically recorded. Stylistic and other similarities between Egil's Saga and Heimskringla have led many scholars to believe that they were the work of the same author, Snorri Sturluson. In part 1, Egil Throlf has been exiled and has sailed to Iceland.

Chapter 6 - Thorolf resolves to serve the king.

Thorolf Kveldulf's son and Eyvind Lambi came home from sea-roving in the autumn. Thorolf went to his father, and father and son had some talk together. Thorolf asked what had been the errand of the men whom Harold sent thither. Kveldulf said the king had sent them with this message, that Kveldulf or else one of his sons should become his man.

'How answeredst thou?' said Thorolf.

'I spake what was in my mind, that I would never take service with king Harold; and ye two will both do the same, if I may counsel: this I think will be the end, that we shall reap ruin from that king.'

'That,' said Thorolf, 'is quite contrary to what my mind tells me, for I think I shall get from him much advancement. And on this I am resolved, to seek the king, and become his man; and this I have learnt for true, that his guard is made up of none but valiant men. To join their company, if they will have me, seems to me most desirable; these men are in far better case than all others in the land. And 'tis told me of the king that he is most generous in money gifts to his men, and not slow to give them promotion and to grant rule to such as he deems meet for it. Whereas I hear this about all that turn their backs upon him and pay him not homage with friendship, that they all become men of nought, some flee abroad, some are made hirelings. It seems wonderful to me, father, in a man so wise and ambitious as thou art, that thou wouldst not thankfully take the dignity which the king offered thee. But if thou thinkest that thou hast prophetic foresight of this, that we shall get misfortune from this king, and that he will be our enemy, then why didst thou not go to battle against him with that king in whose service thou wert before? Now, methinks it is most unreasonable neither to be his friend nor his enemy.'

'It went,' said Kveldulf, 'just as my mind foreboded, that they marched not to victory who went northwards to fight with Harold Shockhead in Mæra; and equally true will this be, that Harold will work much scathe on my kin. But thou, Thorolf, wilt take thine own counsel in thine own business; nor do I fear, though thou enter into the company of Harold's guards, that thou wilt not be thought capable and equal to the foremost in all proofs of manhood. Only beware of this, keep within bounds, nor rival thy betters; thou wilt not, I am sure, yield to others overmuch.'

But when Thorolf made him ready to go, Kveldulf accompanied him down to the ship and embraced him, with wishes for his happy journey and their next merry meeting.

Chapter 7 - Of Bjorgolf, Brynjolf, Bard, and Hildirida.

There was a man in Halogaland named Bjorgolf; he dwelt in Torgar. He was a baron, powerful and wealthy; in strength, stature, and kindred half hill-giant. He had a son named Brynjolf, who was like his father. Bjorgolf was now old, and his wife was dead; and he had given over into his son's hands all business, and found him a wife, Helga, daughter of Kettle Hæing of Hrafnista. Their son was named Bard; he soon grew to be tall and handsome, and became a right doughty man.

One autumn there was a banquet where many men were gathered, Bjorgolf and his son being there the most honourable guests. In the evening they were paired off by lot to drink together, as the old custom was. Now, there was at the banquet a man named Hogni, owner of a farm in Leka, a man of great wealth, very handsome, shrewd, but of low family, who had made his own way. He had a most beautiful daughter, Hildirida by name; and it fell to her lot to sit by Bjorgolf. They talked much together that evening, and the fair maiden charmed the old man. Shortly afterwards the banquet broke up.

Egil's Saga—Part Two

That same autumn old Bjorgolf journeyed from home in a cutter of his own, with thirty men aboard. He came to Leka, and twenty of them went up to the house, while ten guarded the ship. When they came to the farm, Hogni went out to meet him, and made him welcome, invited him and his comrades to lodge there, which offer Bjorgolf accepted, and they entered the room. But when they had doffed their travelling clothes and donned mantles, then Hogni gave orders to bring in a large bowl of beer; and Hildirida, the daughter of the house, bare ale to the guests.

Bjorgolf called to him Hogni the goodman, and said, 'My errand here is this: I will have your daughter to go home with me, and will even now make with her a hasty wedding.'

Hogni saw no choice but to let all be as Bjorgolf would; so Bjorgolf bought her with an ounce of gold, and they became man and wife, and Hildirida went home with Bjorgolf to Torgar. Brynjolf showed him ill-pleased at this business. Bjorgolf and Hildirida had two sons; one was named Harek, the other Hærek.

Soon after this Bjorgolf died; but no sooner was he buried than Brynjolf sent away Hildirida and her sons. She went to her father at Leka, and there her sons were brought up. They were good-looking, small of stature, naturally shrewd, like their mother's kin. They were commonly called Hildirida's sons. Brynjolf made little count of them, and did not let them inherit aught of their father's. Hildirida was Hogni's heiress, and she and her sons inherited from him and dwelt in Leka, and had plenty of wealth. Bard, Brynjolf's son, and Hildirida's sons were about of an age.

Bjorgolf and his son Brynjolf had long held the office of going to the Finns, and collecting the Finns' tribute.

Northwards, in Halogaland is a firth called Vefsnir, and in the firth lies an island called Alost, a large island and a good, and in this a farm called Sandness. There dwelt a man named Sigurd, the richest man thereabouts in the north; he was a baron, and wise of understanding. He had a daughter named Sigridr; she was thought the best match in Halogaland, being his only child and sole heiress to her father. Bard Brynjolf's son journeyed from home with a cutter and thirty men aboard northwards to Alost, and came to Sigurd at Sandness. There he declared his business, and asked Sigridr to wife. This offer was well received and favourable answered, and so it came about that Bard was betrothed to the maiden. The marriage was to take place the next summer. Bard was then to come north for the wedding.

Chapter 8 - Of Bard and Thorolf.

King Harold had that summer sent word to the men of power that were in Halogaland, summoning to him such as had not come to him before. Brynjolf resolved to go, and with him Bard his son; and in the autumn they went southwards to Throndheim, and there met the king. He received them most gladly. Brynjolf was made a baron of the king's; the king also gave him large grants beside what he had before. He gave him withal the right of journey to the Finns, with the king's business on the fells and the Finn traffic. Then Brynjolf went away home to his estate, but Bard remained, and was made one of the king's guard.

Of all his guard the king most prized his skalds; they occupied the second high seat. Of these Audun Ill-skald sat innermost, being the oldest; he had been skald to Halfdan Swarthy, king Harold's father. Next to him sat Thorbjorn Raven, then Aulvir Hnuf, and next to him was placed Bard; he was there by-named Bard the White or Bard the Strong. He was in honour with everyone there, but between him and Aulvir Hnuf was a close friendship.

That same autumn came to king Harold Thorolf Kveldulf's son and Eyvind Lambi, Kari of Berdla's son, and they were well received. They brought thither a swift twenty-benched long-ship well manned, which they had before used in sea-roving. They and their company were placed in the guest-hall; but when they had waited there till they thought it a fit time to go before the king, Kari of Berdla and Aulvir Hnuf went in with them. They greeted the king. Then said Aulvir Hnuf, 'Here is come Kveldulf's son, whom I told thee in the summer Kveldulf would send. His promise to thee will now stand fast; for here thou canst see true tokens that he will be thy friend in all when he hath sent his son hither to take service with thee, a stalwart man as thou mayest see. Now, this is the boon craved by Kveldulf and by us all, that thou receive Thorolf with honour and make him a great man with thee.'

The king answered his words well, promising that so he would do, 'If,' said he, 'Thorolf proves himself as accomplished in deed as he is right brave in look.'

After this Thorolf was made of the king's household, and one of his guard.

But Kari of Berdla and his son Eyvind Lambi went back south in the ship which Thorolf had brought north, and so home to Kari's farm. Thorolf remained with the king, who appointed him a seat between Aulvir Hnuf and Bard; and these three struck up a close friendship. And all men said of Thorolf and Bard that they were a well-matched pair for comeliness, stature, strength, and all doughty deeds. And both were in high favour with the king.

Egil's Saga—Part Two...continued

But when winter was past and summer came, then Bard asked leave to go and see to the marriage promised to him the summer before. And when the king knew that Bard's errand was urgent, he allowed him to go home. Then Bard asked Thorolf to go north with him, saying (as was true) that he would meet there many of his kin, men of renown, whom he had not yet seen or known. Thorolf thought this desirable, so they got leave from the king for this; then they made them ready, took a good ship and crew, and went their way.

When they came to Torgar, they sent word to Sigurd that Bard would now see to that marriage on which they had agreed the summer before. Sigurd said that he would hold to all that they had arranged; so they fixed the wedding-day, and Bard with his party were to come north to Sandness. At the appointed time Brynjolf and Bard set out, and with them many great men of their kin and connexions. And it was as Bard had said, that Thorolf met there many of his kinsmen that he had not known before. They journeyed to Sandness, and there was held the most splendid feast. And when the feast was ended, Bard went home with his wife, and remained at home through the summer, and Thorolf with him.

In the autumn they came south to the king, and were with him another winter. During that winter Brynjolf died; and when Bard learnt that the inheritance there was open for him, he asked leave to go home. This the king granted, and before they parted Bard was made a baron, as his father had been, and held of the king all those same grants that Brynjolf had held. Bard went home to his estate, and at once became a great chief; but Hildirida's sons got no more of the heritage than before. Bard had a son by his wife; he was named Grim. Meanwhile Thorolf was with the king, and in great honour.

Chapter 9 - Battle in Hafr's Firth.

King Harold proclaimed a general levy, and gathered a fleet, summoning his forces far and wide through the land. He went out from Throndheim, and bent his course southwards, for he had heard that a large host was gathered throughout Agdir, Rogaland, and Hordaland, assembled from far, both from the inland parts above, and from the east out of Vik, and many great men were there met who purposed to defend their land from the king. Harold held on his way from the north, with a large force, having his guards on board. In the forecastle of the king's ship were Thorolf Kveldulfsson, Bard the White, Kari of Berdla's sons, Aulvir Hnuf and Eyvind Lambi, and in the prow were twelve Berserks of the king.

The fleets met south in Rogaland in Hafr's Firth. There was fought the greatest battle that king Harold had had, with much slaughter in either host. The king set his own ship in the van, and there the battle was most stubborn, but the end was that king Harold won the victory. Thorir Longchin, king of Agdir, fell there, but Kjotvi the wealthy fled with all his men that could stand, save some that surrendered after the battle. When the roll of Harold's army was called, many were they that had fallen, and many were sore wounded. Thorolf was badly wounded, Bard even worse; nor was there a man unwounded in the king's ship before the mast, except those whom iron bit not to wit the Berserks.

Then the king had his men's wounds bound up, and thanked them for their valour, and gave them gifts, adding most praise where he thought it most deserved. He promised them also further honour, naming some to be steersmen, others forecastle men, others bow-sitters. This was the last battle king Harold had within the land; after this none withstood him; he was supreme over all Norway.

The king saw to the healing of his men, whose wounds gave them hope of life, as also to the burial of the dead with all customary honours. Thorolf and Bard lay wounded. Thorolf's wounds began to heal, but Bard's proved mortal. Then Bard had the king called to him, and spoke thus:

'If it so be that I die of these wounds, then I would ask this of thee, that I may myself name my heir.'

To this when the king assented, then said he:

'I will that Thorolf my friend and kinsman take all my heritage, both lands and chattels. To him, also, will I give my wife and the bringing up of my son, because I trust him for this above all men.'

This arrangement he made fast, as the law was, with the leave of the king. Then Bard died, and was buried,

Egil's Saga—Part Two...the conclusion...

and his death was much mourned. Thorolf was healed of his wounds, and followed the king, and had won great glory.

In the autumn the king went north to Throndheim. Then Thorolf asked to go north to Halogaland, to see after those gifts which he had received in the summer from his kinsman Bard. The king gave leave for this, adding a message and tokens that Thorolf should take all that Bard had given him, showing that the gift was with the counsel of the king, and that he would have it so. Then the king made Thorolf a baron, and granted him all the rights which Bard had had before, giving him the journey to the Finns on the same terms. He also supplied to Thorolf a good long-ship, with tackling complete, and had everything made ready for his journey thence in the best possible way. So Thorolf set out, and he and the king parted with great affection.

But when Thorolf came north to Torgar, he was well received. He told them of Bard's death; also how Bard had left him both lands and chattels, and her that had been his wife; then he showed the king's order and tokens. When Sigridr heard these tidings, she felt her great loss in her husband, but with Thorolf she was already well acquainted, and knew him for a man of great mark; and this promise of her in marriage was good, and besides there was the king's command. So she and her friends saw it to be the best plan that she should be betrothed to Thorolf, unless that were against her father's mind. Thereupon Thorolf took all the management of the property, and also the king's business.

Soon after this Thorolf started with a long-ship and about sixty men, and coasted northwards, till one day at eventide he came to Sandness in Alost; there they moored the ship. And when they had raised their tent, and made arrangements, Thorolf went up to the farm buildings with twenty men. Sigurd received him well, and asked him to lodge there, for there had been great intimacy between them since the marriage connection between Sigurd and Bard. Then Thorolf and his men went into the hall, and were there entertained. Sigurd sat and talked with Thorolf, and asked tidings. Thorolf told of the battle fought that summer in the south, and of the fall of many men whom Sigurd knew well, and withal how Bard his son-in-law had died of wounds received in the battle. This they both felt to be a great loss. Then Thorolf told Sigurd what had been the covenant between him and Bard before he died, and he declared also the orders of the king, how he would have all this hold good, and this he showed by the tokens.

After this Thorolf entered on his wooing with Sigurd, and asked Sigridr, his daughter, to wife. Sigurd received the proposal well; he said there were many reasons for this; first, the king would have it so; next, Bard had asked it; and further he himself knew Thorolf well, and thought it a good match for his daughter. Thus Sigurd was easily won to grant this suit; whereupon the betrothal was made, and the wedding was fixed for the autumn at Torgar.

Then Thorolf went home to his estate, and his comrades with him. There he prepared a great feast, and bade many thereto. Of Thorolf's kin many were present, men of renown. Sigurd also came thither from the north with a long-ship and a chosen crew. Numerously attended was that feast, and it was at once seen that Thorolf was free-handed and munificent. He kept about him a large following, whereof the cost was great, and much provision was needed; but the year was good, and needful supplies were easily found.

During that winter Sigurd died at Sandness, and Thorolf was heir to all his property; this was great wealth.

Now the sons of Hildirida came to Thorolf, and put in the claim which they thought they had on the property that had belonged to their father Bjorgolf. Thorolf answered them thus:

'This I knew of Brynjolf, and still better of Bard, that they were men so generous that they would have let you have of Bjorgolf's heritage what share they knew to be your right. I was present when ye two put in this same claim on Bard, and I heard what he thought, that there was no ground for it, for he called you illegitimate.'

Harek said that they would bring witnesses that their mother was duly bought with payment.

'It is true that we did not at first treat of this matter with Brynjolf our brother it was a case of sharing between kinsmen, but of Bard we hoped to get our dues in every respect, though our dealings with him were not for long. Now however this heritage has come to men who are in nowise our kin, and we cannot be altogether silent about our wrong; but it may be that, as before, might will so prevail that we get not our right of thee in this, if thou refuse to hear the witness that we can bring to prove us honourably born.'

Thorolf then answered angrily:

'So far am I from thinking you legitimate heirs that I am told your mother was taken by force, and carried home as a captive.'

After that they left talking altogether.

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- Doña Alexandria Morgan
- Lord Conall Mac an Druaidh
- Veronica Francesco

Archery Guard:
- Countess Eórann O'Connor, Captain
- THL Lêofsige Ó Caoimh (aka Lyssa)
- Sander von Zeitz

Ladies-in-Waiting:
- Lady Jeanette du Vallier, Head Lady in Waiting
- THL Bronwen of Hindscroft
- Lady Mael Mide ingen Domnaill
- Viola
- Lady Gaia, Out of Kingdom North
- Lady Zaahira de la Sara, Out of Kingdom South

Baroness's Companions:
- Duchess Cainnleach Uliseir of Glendalough
- Mistress Mary of Lyonshall

Court Herald:
- THL Kiara Loftus

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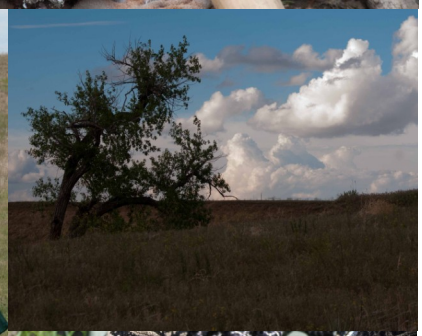

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